



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

## FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

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FB15-029

## NOAA Fisheries Seeks Public Comment on a Proposed Rule for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region *Comment Period Ends May 8, 2015*

NOAA Fisheries is seeking public comment on the proposed rule for Regulatory Amendment 20 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (Regulatory Amendment 20). The proposed rule published on **April 8, 2015 (80 FR 18797)**, and the comment period ends on **May 8, 2015**.

The proposed rule would:

- Increase the commercial and recreational annual catch limits for snowy grouper as a result of the latest population assessment. The annual catch limits would increase during 2015 to 2019, and remain at 2019 levels until a new assessment takes place. The new values in pounds gutted weight are:

Year	Commercial Annual catch limit	Recreational Annual catch limit	Estimated Recreational Numbers of Fish
Current	82,900	4,400	523
2015	115,451	23,647	4,152
2016	125,760	25,758	4,483
2017	135,380	27,729	4,819
2018	144,315	29,558	4,983
2019	153,935	31,529	5,315

- Increase the commercial trip limit for snowy grouper from 100 pounds gutted weight to 200 pounds gutted weight.
- Modify the recreational fishing season for snowy grouper from 1 per vessel per day year-round to 1 per vessel per day from May through August with no recreational retention during the rest of the year.

### Request for Comments

Comments on the proposed rule must be received no later than **May 8, 2015**, to be considered by NOAA Fisheries. See the Addresses section for information on where and how to submit comments.

### Addresses

Electronic or hardcopies of the proposed rule may be obtained from:

- The NOAA Fisheries Web site:
- [http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable\\_fisheries/s\\_atl/sg/2015/reg\\_am20/index.html](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/sg/2015/reg_am20/index.html). The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Web site at <http://www.safmc.net>.

You may submit comments by the following methods:

- **Electronic Submission:** Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to [http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=N\\_OAA-NMFS-2015-0003](http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=N_OAA-NMFS-2015-0003), click the "Comment Now!" icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.
- **Mail:** Nikhil Mehta  
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All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address, etc.), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NOAA Fisheries will accept anonymous comments (enter "N/A" in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

### More Information

For more information on the proposed rule for Regulatory Amendment 20, please follow this link to the Frequently Asked Questions:

[http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable\\_fisheries/s\\_atl/sg/2015/reg\\_am20/index.html](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/sg/2015/reg_am20/index.html)